

#231 | MARVEL

DAVID
LUPACCHINO
ORTEGO
MILLA

X-FACTOR



RATED T+
\$2.99US
DIRECT EDITION
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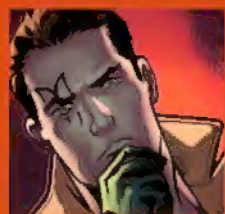


YARDIN
AFTER
MCNIVEN

Founded by Jamie Madrox and staffed by a group of the best mutant heroes around, when superhumanity needs a detective agency, they call on X-Factor Investigations.

X-FACTOR

MULTIPLE MAN



JAMIE MADROX
Self-Duplication

MULTIPLE MAN



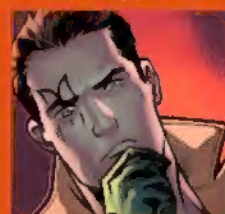
JAMIE MADROX
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MULTIPLE MAN



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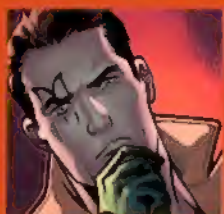
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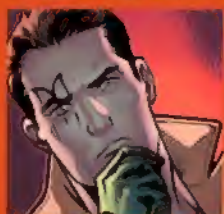
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Self-Duplication

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JAMIE MADROX
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MULTIPLE MAN



JAMIE MADROX
Self-Duplication

PREVIOUSLY

With the rest of the team believing that he was killed by the villainous Bloodbath, Madrox has actually been catapulting from one reality to the next for no reason he understands, each time incarnating into a new body via a recently deceased Madrox Prime.

Meanwhile: Peter's daughter, Caroline, has started taking kung fu lessons. Peter approves of this as it means that, when she's a teenager, she'll be able to handle the unwanted advances of teenage boys and he can save money on hiring a bodyguard.

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SUPPOSEDLY WHEN YOU
DIE, YOU SEE A BRIGHT
LIGHT CALLING YOU TO
YOUR HEAVENLY REWARD.

WHEN DUPES OF MINE HAVE
DIED, I'VE SHARED THEIR
LAST MOMENTS. NEVER SAW A
LIGHT, BRIGHT OR OTHERWISE.

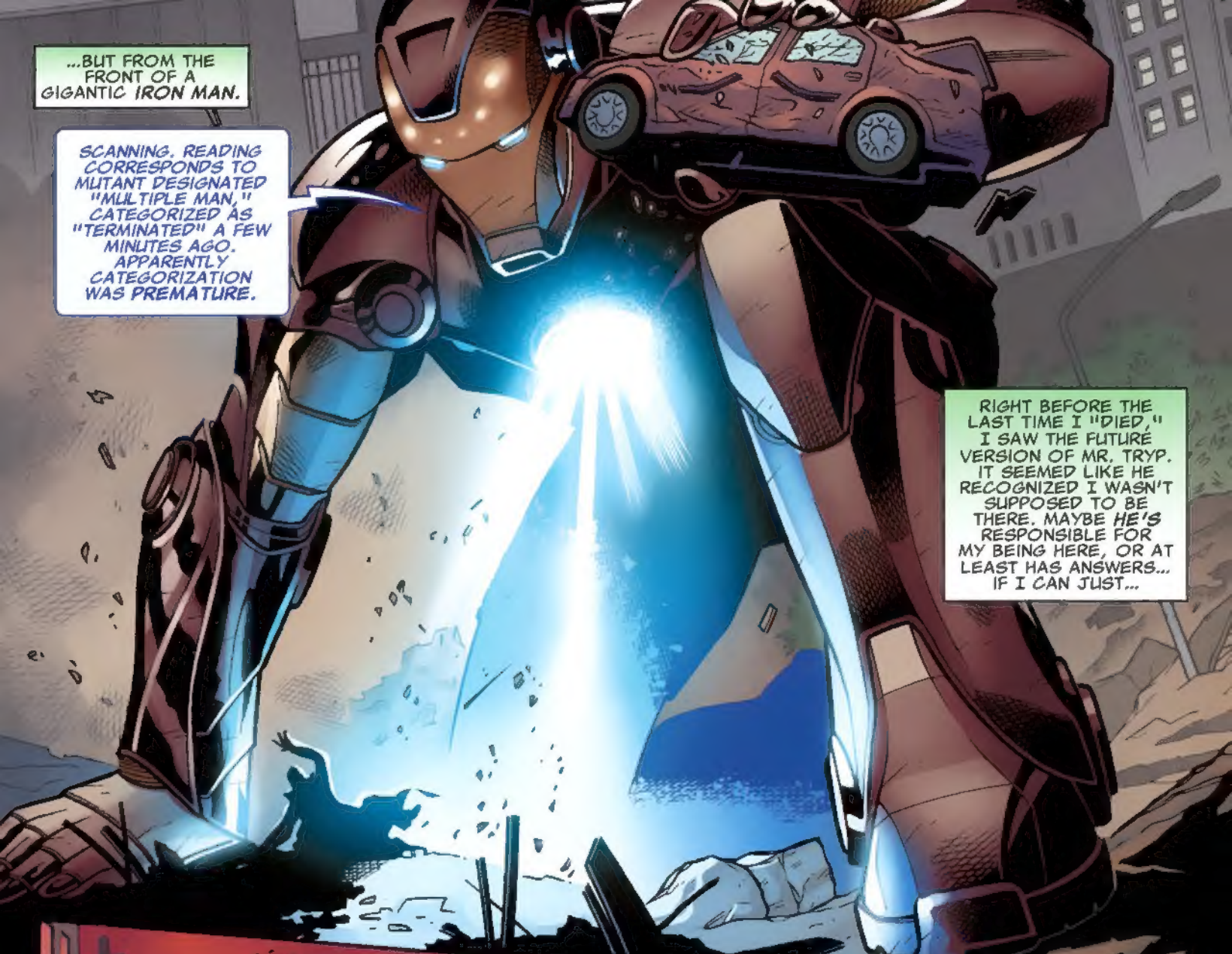
NEVER HEARD ANY ANGELIC
HOSANNAS OR THE VOICE OF
GOD WELCOMING ME HOME.

ALWAYS WONDERED WHAT
IT WOULD BE LIKE TO
WITNESS ANY OF THAT.

I NEVER IMAGINED THAT WHEN I
DID SEE THE LIGHT RIGHT
BEFORE MY DEATH, IT WOULDN'T
BE COMING FROM HEAVEN...

THEY KEEP KILLING MADROX

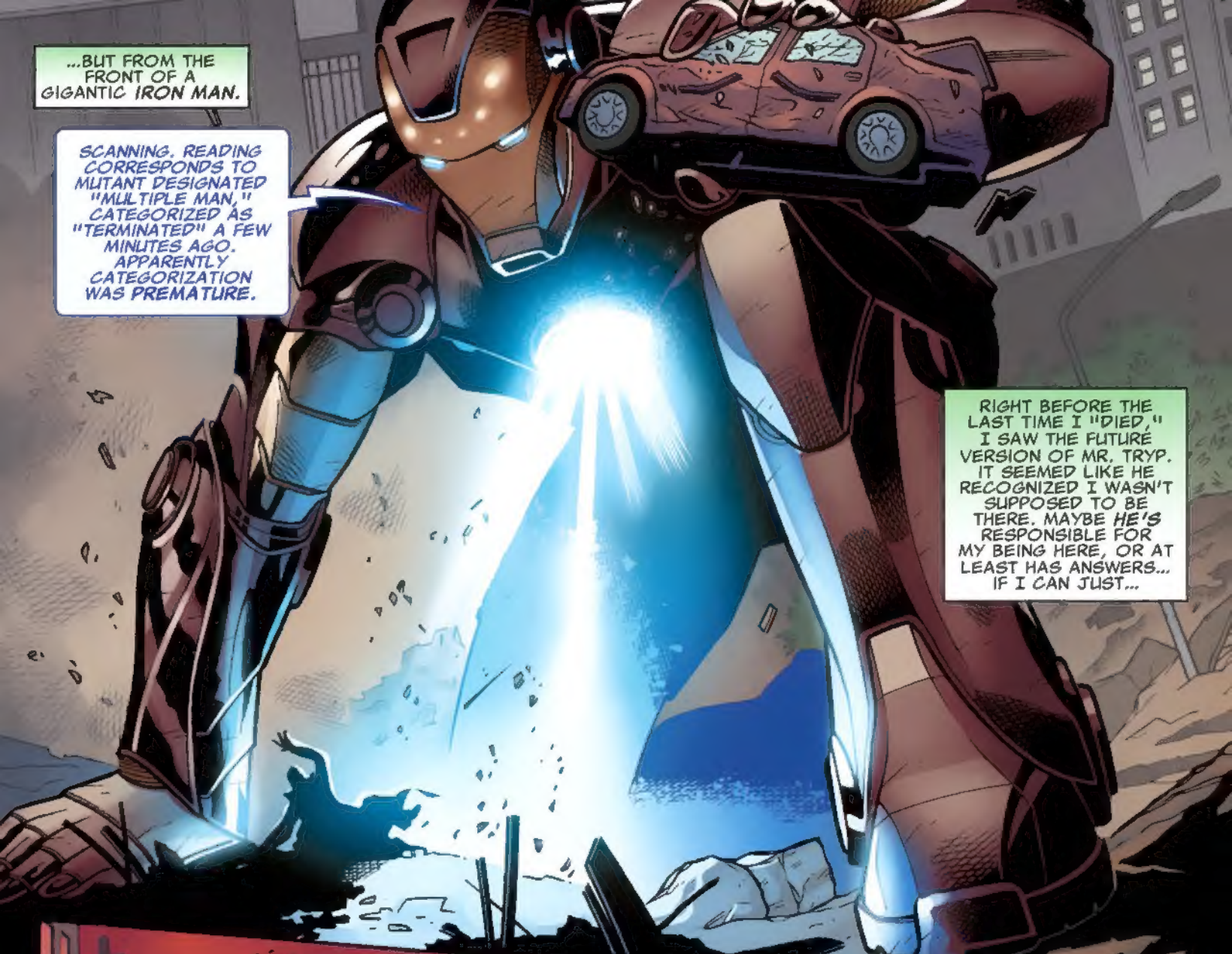
PART THREE

A large Iron Man suit is shown from the waist up, holding a red car in its right arm. A bright blue energy beam is being projected from the chest area of the suit. The background shows a city street with buildings and debris.

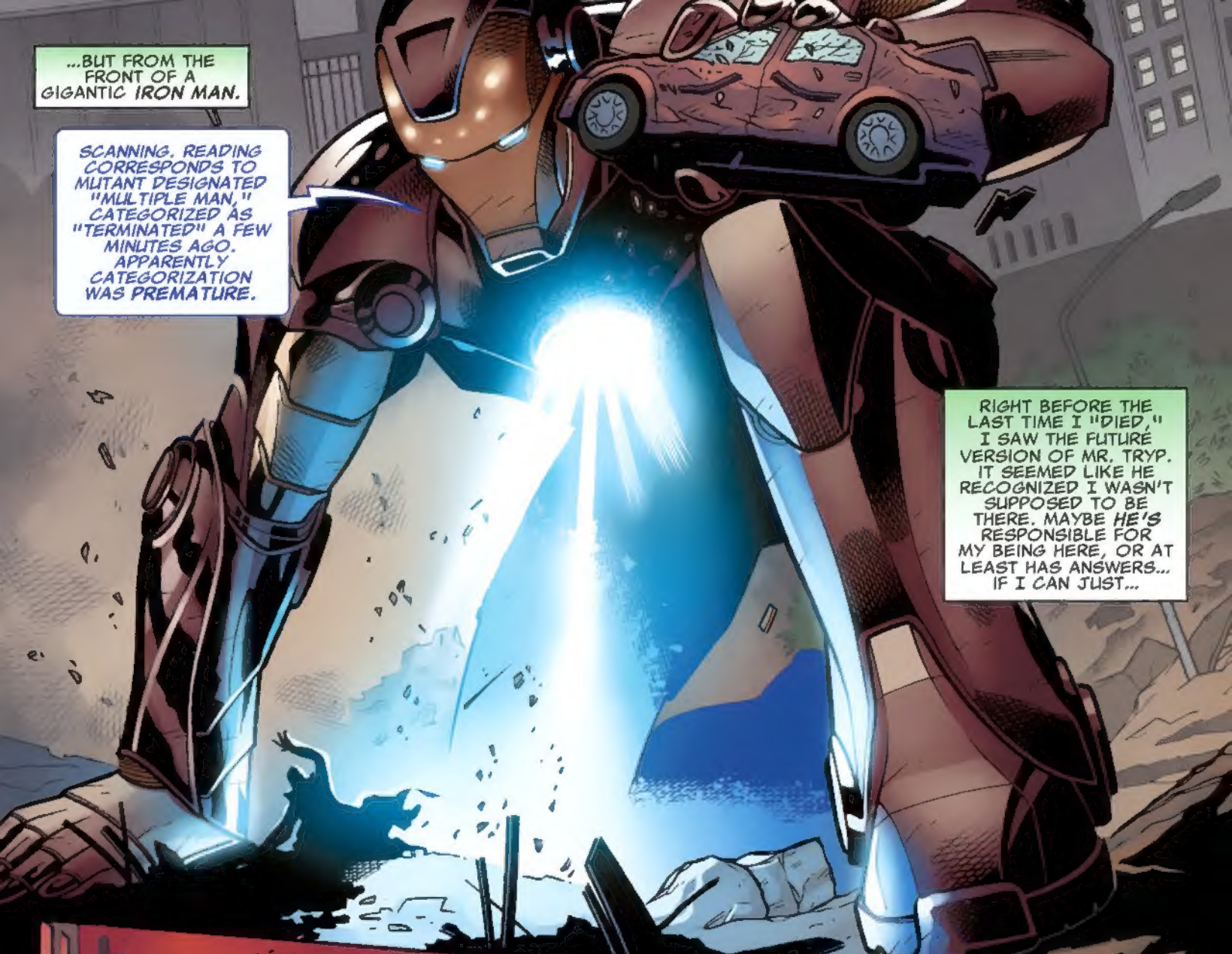
...BUT FROM THE
FRONT OF A
GIGANTIC IRON MAN.

SCANNING. READING
CORRESPONDS TO
MUTANT DESIGNATED
"MULTIPLE MAN,"
CATEGORIZED AS
"TERMINATED" A FEW
MINUTES AGO.
APPARENTLY
CATEGORIZATION
WAS PREMATURE.

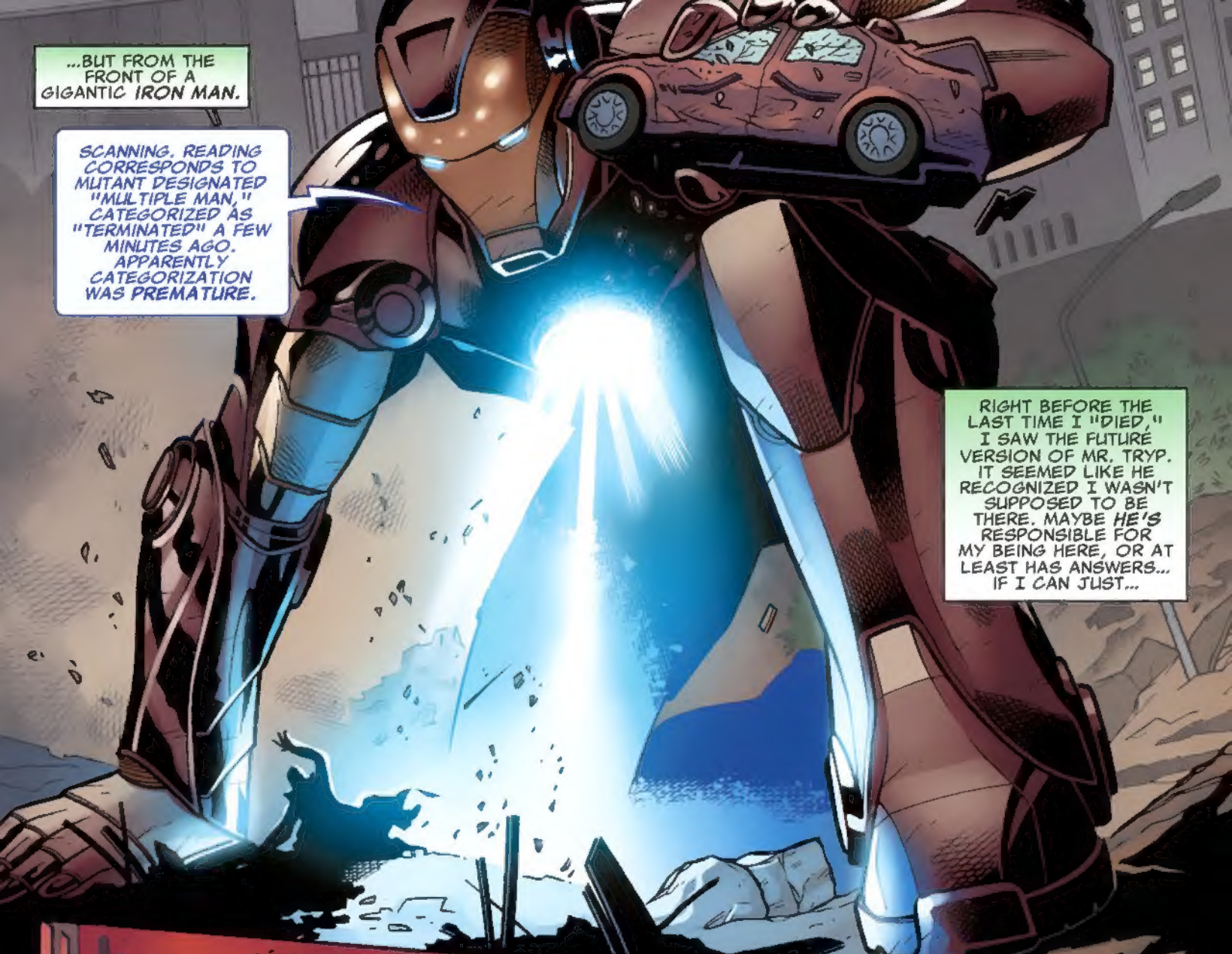
RIGHT BEFORE THE
LAST TIME I "DIED,"
I SAW THE FUTURE
VERSION OF MR. TRYB.
IT SEEMED LIKE HE
RECOGNIZED I WASN'T
SUPPOSED TO BE
THERE. MAYBE HE'S
RESPONSIBLE FOR
MY BEING HERE, OR AT
LEAST HAS ANSWERS...
IF I CAN JUST...

A large Iron Man suit is shown from the waist up, holding a red car in its right arm. A bright blue energy beam is being projected from the chest area of the suit. The background shows a city street with buildings and debris.

NO WORRIES,
THOUGH. I'LL
TEND TO HIM.

A large Iron Man suit is shown from the waist up, holding a red car in its right arm. A bright blue energy beam is being projected from the chest area of the suit. The background shows a city street with buildings and debris.

GUESS I WON'T
BE FINDING TRYB
ANYTIME SOON.
AND IF I DIE
AGAIN, MAYBE
I'LL BE PUNTED
TO ANOTHER
REALITY...BUT
MAYBE NOT.
MAYBE THIS IS IT.

A large Iron Man suit is shown from the waist up, holding a red car in its right arm. A bright blue energy beam is being projected from the chest area of the suit. The background shows a city street with buildings and debris.

GUYS...I'M
SORRY I LET
YOU DOWN.

A large Iron Man suit is shown from the waist up, holding a red car in its right arm. A bright blue energy beam is being projected from the chest area of the suit. The background shows a city street with buildings and debris.

YOU
DESERVED
BETTER.



HOLD ON...



I'M GETTING READINGS OFF HIM. SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT.

NOT RIGHT? BEYOND HIS BEING A GENETIC FREAK, YOU MEAN?

BECAUSE HE SEEMS LIKE A REGULAR OLD MUTANT TO ME.



YOU'RE NOT LOOKING CLOSELY ENOUGH. HE'S OUT OF PHASE.

OUT OF WHAT NOW?



CHECK YOUR READINGS. HE'S OUT OF PHASE WITH THIS WORLD.

IT'S THE INTERDIMENSIONAL EQUIVALENT OF BEING A SQUARE PEG IN A ROUND HOLE.



SO YOU'RE SAYING HE SHOULDN'T BE HERE AT ALL?

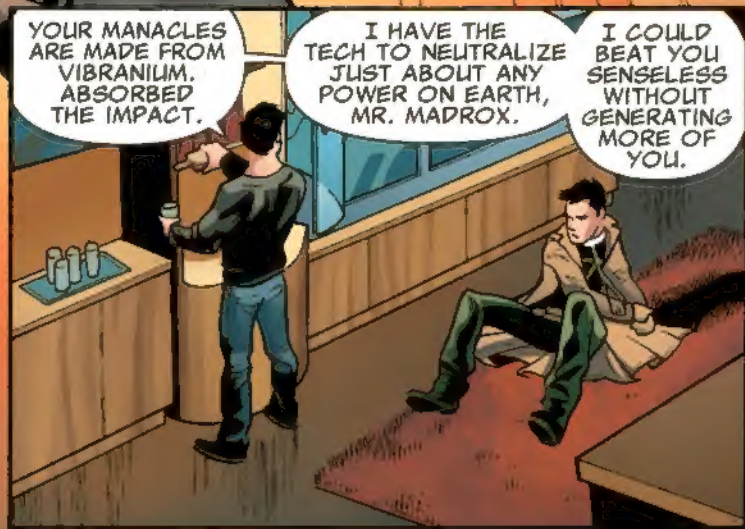
RIGHT.

AND THAT'S NOT ANOTHER REASON TO JUST KILL HIM?

MAYBE...

"...BUT THE BOSS'LL BE INTERESTED TO KNOW HOW HE GOT HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE."







I'D HEARD THAT YOU AND ALCOHOL DON'T EXACTLY SEE EYE TO RYE.



CONSIDERING THE WORLD WE LIVE IN?

THIS IS THE ONLY ESCAPE I'VE GOT.

INDULGE ME MY ONE EXCESS.



WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO YOU, STARK?

I MEAN, I KNOW YOU WERE IN THE GOVERNMENT'S POCKET DURING THE WHOLE WAR OVER THE REGISTRATION ACT...BUT JEEZ...

TURNING THE CITY INTO SOME TOTALITARIAN STATE WITH--



THE REG ACT? YOU THINK THIS IS FALLOUT FROM THE REG ACT?

YOU REALLY AREN'T FROM AROUND HERE.

SO TELL ME?



DID WANDA DESTROY YOUR WORLD AS WELL?

WANDA?
THE SCARLET
WITCH?

NO, WANDA
THE DOG-FACED
BOY. OF COURSE
THE SCARLET
WITCH.

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND.

I DIDN'T
UNDERSTAND AT
FIRST EITHER. I
WAS OUT IN SPACE
WHEN IT HAPPENED,
YOU SEE. ME AND
A HANDFUL OF
OTHERS.

I FIGURE
THAT'S WHY
WE WERE SPARED.
HER POWER,
HER...**SPELL**...

...IT WAS
CONFINED TO
EARTH.

THE RESULTS
WERE WAITING
FOR US WHEN
WE RETURNED.

WHAT
RESULTS?

WHAT
DID WANDA
DO?

TOOK ME
A WHILE TO
PIECE IT
TOGETHER.

SOMETHING
INVOLVING MAGNETO.
A WORLD TRANSFORMED,
AND THEN HER CHANGING
IT **BACK**, BUT WITH
THREE LITTLE
WORDS...

THREE
MAGIC
WORDS...

"NO MORE
HUMANS."



OH MY
GOD.



"NO MORE MUTANTS."
THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID IN MY
WORLD AND JUST LIKE THAT,
THERE WERE BARELY TWO
HUNDRED MUTANTS LEFT.

YOU SURE
HE'S UP
THERE?

ABSOLUTELY.

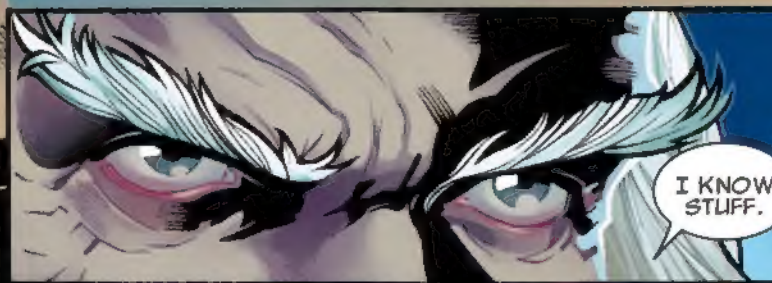


HE'S THE
KEY TO ALL
THIS. THE KEY
TO A BETTER
WORLD.



HE'S WITH
STARK RIGHT
NOW.

AND YOU
KNOW
THIS HOW?



I KNOW
STUFF.



NOT THAT HUMANITY DISAPPEARED OVERNIGHT, NO, THAT WOULD BE TOO SIMPLE.

INSTEAD THOSE WHO ALREADY HAD POWERS BECAME MONSTROUS SHADOWS OF THEMSELVES...

...WHILE MOST JUST BECAME STRAIGHT-UP MONSTERS. BARELY TEN PERCENT OF HUMANITY REMAINED INTACT.

WHAT YOU DESCRIBE AS TOTALITARIANISM...

I CALL SURVIVAL.



I'VE BEEN FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT FOR THE LAST DRESS OF HUMANITY.

AND I'M TIRED OF FIGHTING ALONE.

KLIK



NOW...I'VE BEEN ANSWERING ALL YOUR QUESTIONS. TIME TO REPLY THE FAVOR.

TELL ME ABOUT THE WORLD YOU COME FROM, AND HOW YOU GOT HERE.

WHY? YOU WANT TO BAIL ON THIS ONE?

WHAT PART OF "I'M TIRED" WAS UNCLEAR?

EVERY DAY FEELS LIKE A WEEK. EVERY WEEK, AN AGE.

A SMART GENERAL KNOWS WHEN HE'S IN A LOSING BATTLE AND A RETREAT IS CALLED FOR.

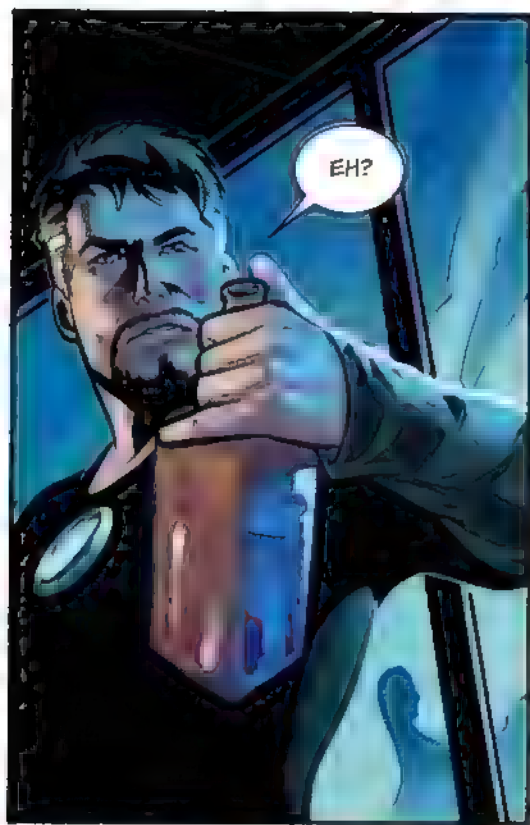


I COULD SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE IN A BOTTLE...OR BACK OUT IN SPACE...

OR IN ANOTHER REALM COMPLETELY. ME, I VOTE FOR...

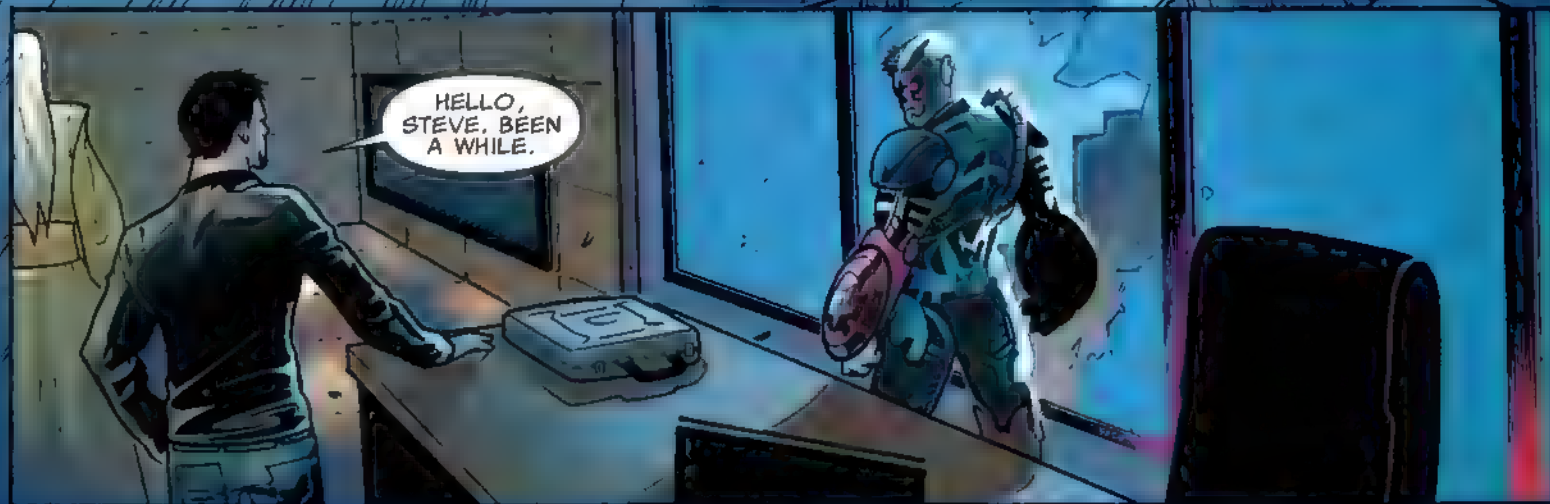
CHA-

CHAK





...BUT HE
USED TO GO
BY ANOTHER
NAME.



HELLO,
STEVE. BEEN
A WHILE.

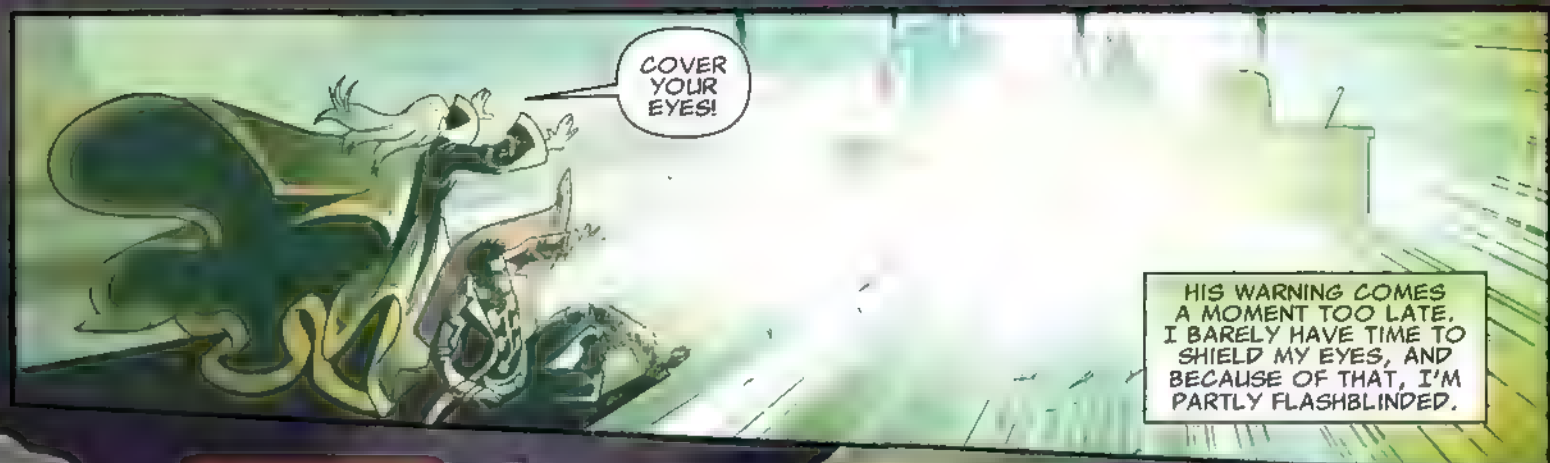


HELLO,
TONY.

YOU DON'T
HAVE ANY
MORE WHILES.



MAYBE NOT,
BUT I STILL
HAVE SOME
WILES.



COVER
YOUR
EYES!

HIS WARNING COMES
A MOMENT TOO LATE.
I BARELY HAVE TIME TO
SHIELD MY EYES, AND
BECAUSE OF THAT, I'M
PARTLY FLASHBLINDED.

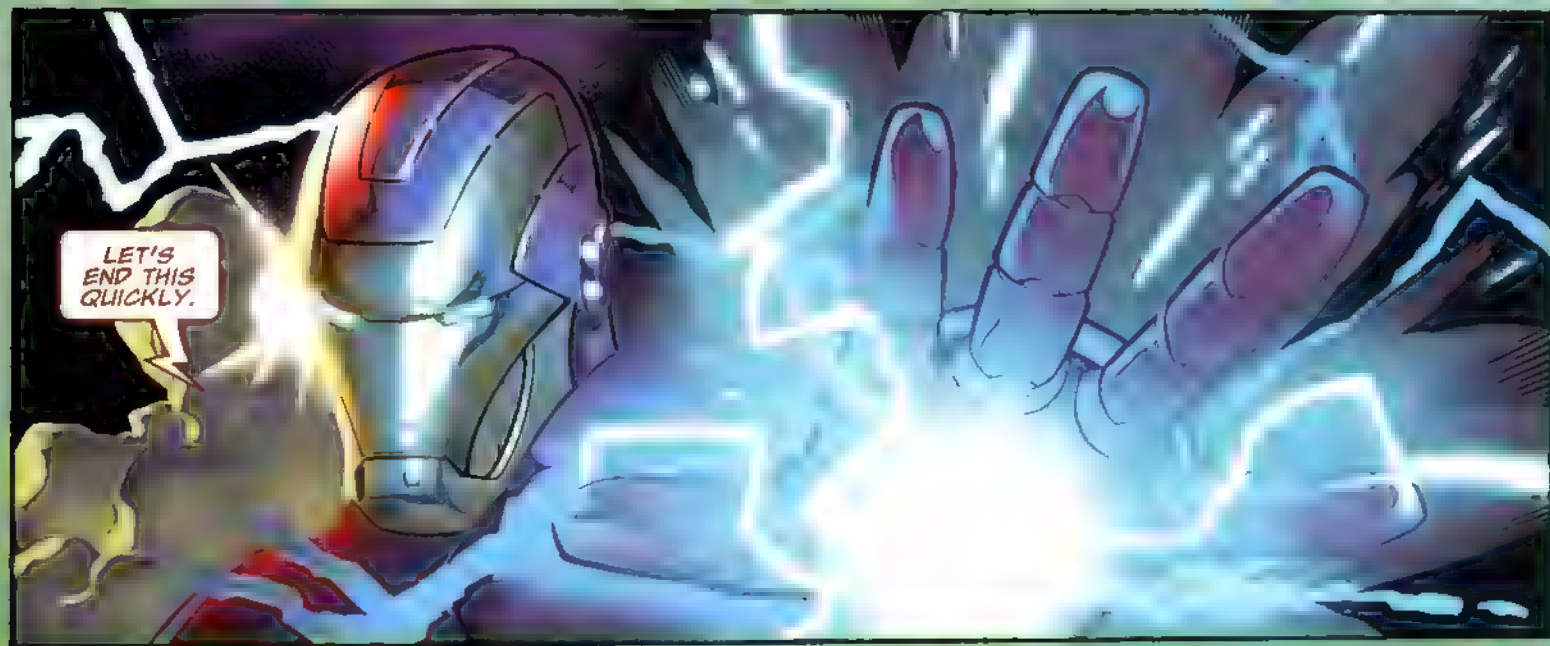


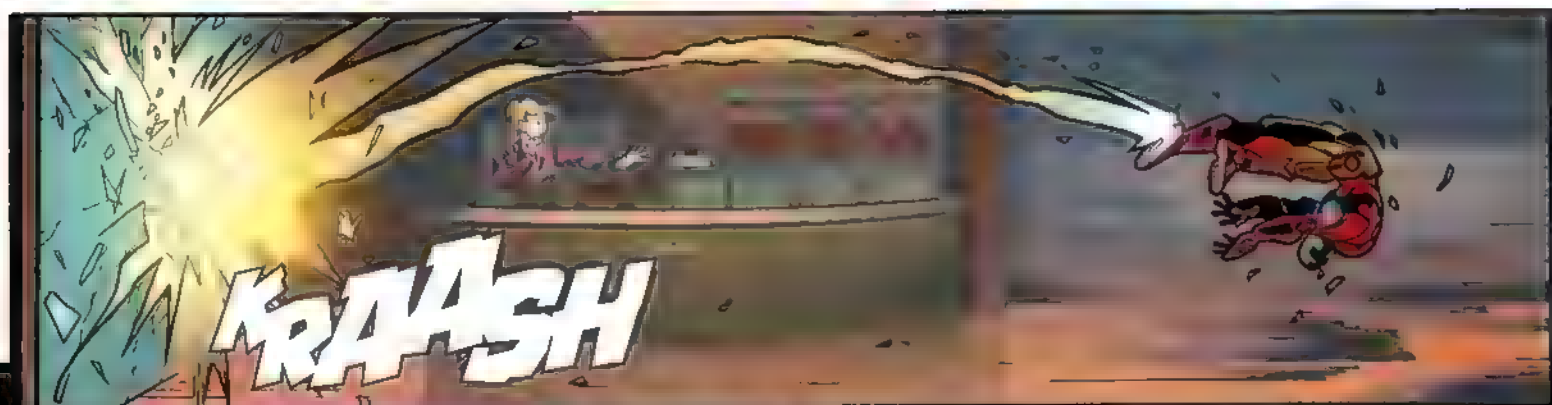
YOU SHOULDN'T
HAVE COME BACK
HERE, STEVE.

AND YOU
SHOULDN'T HAVE
LET ME GET
ARMORED UP.



ARE YOU KIDDING?
WHAT FUN WOULD
IT HAVE BEEN
OTHERWISE?







OOOOOI

NO MORE HUMANS?

NOT AN ISSUE.

CUTE, TONY. VEERRRRRY CUTE.

BUT IT WON'T SAVE YOU.

RAKAAAAA



NOTHING
WILL.



FUNNY. THAT'S JUST
WHAT I WAS GOING
TO SAY TO YOU.



CAN YOU
SEE?

SHADOWS.
OUTLINES.
IT'S GETTING
BETTER.

WHAT THE
HELL IS GOING
ON, TRYPP? WHY
ARE YOU HERE? AS
SOME SORT OF
DISEMBODIED
JIMINY
CRICKET?

I DON'T
KNOW WHO
THAT IS.



WHAT I KNOW IS
THAT THERE ARE
SEPARATIONS BETWEEN
WORLDS, AND THOSE
SEPARATIONS ARE
GOING TO GET
THINNER.

AND FOR
WHATEVER
REASON, YOU'RE
GETTING A
PREVIEW
OF IT.

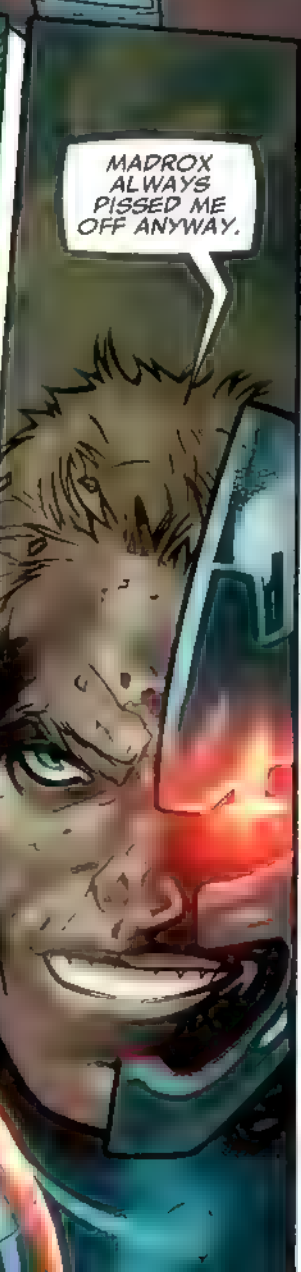
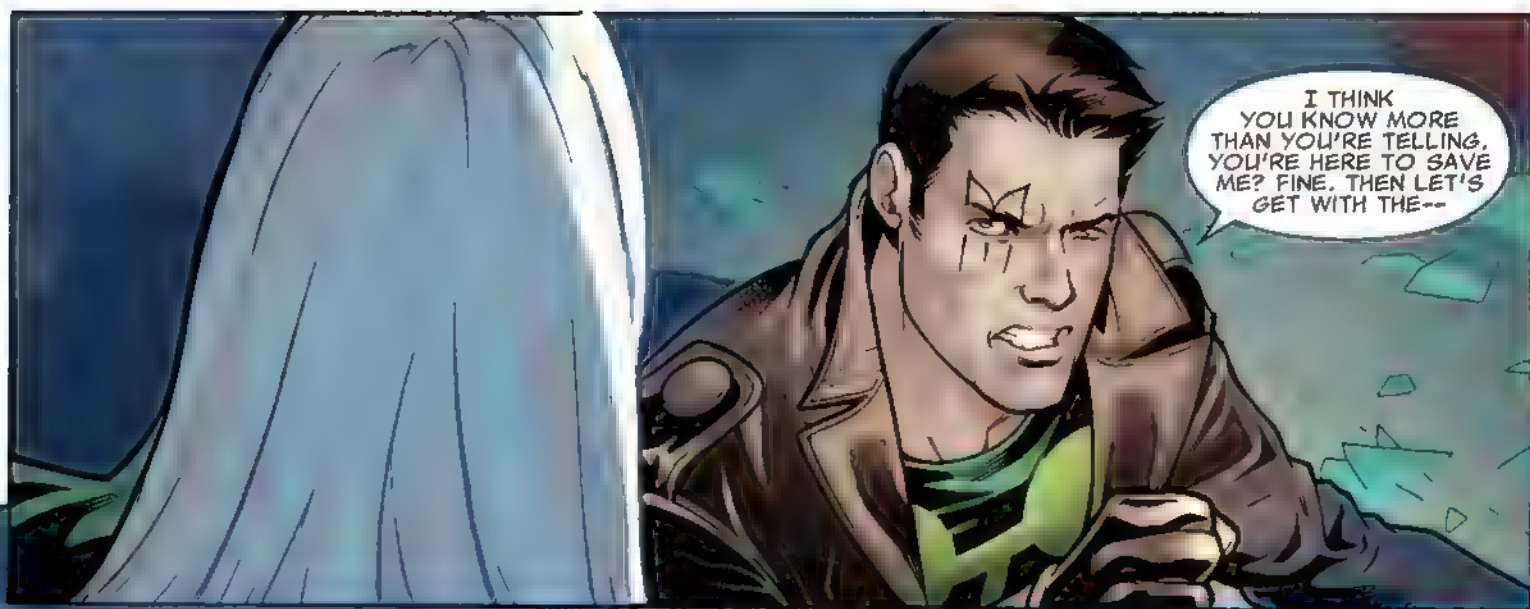


"WHATEVER
REASON"? YOU'RE
CLAIMING YOU'RE NOT
BEHIND THIS? SO WHO
IS? AND WHAT AM I
GETTING A PREVIEW
OF?



OF
WHEN THE
SKIES START
TO BLEED.

AS FOR
WHO... I DON'T
KNOW. GOD.
GODS. LAYLA
MILLER. TAKE
YOUR PICK.





WORST.

RESCUE.

EVER.



WHOA---!
WHA---?



MY...MY
DUPES HAVE
THEIR OWN POWERS
IN THIS WORLD,
TOO?

WHAT,
NOT IN
YOURS?

NO,
MY WORLD
SLICKS.

WHY SO
ANXIOUS TO
RETURN TO
IT?

THE
OTHERS SUCK
WORSE.



LET ME
GET YOU TO
A ROOFTOP.

WHY NOT
THE STREET?
YOU CAN FLY ME
DOWN THERE,
RIGHT?

TECHNICALLY
YES. BUT THERE'S
THE DRAWBACK...

WHAT
DRAWBACK?



IN THIS
WORLD, WE DUPES
DON'T LAST LONGER
THAN TWENTY SECONDS...
SOMETIMES AS
LITTLE AS FI--



"FIVE," I
THINK HE WAS
GOING TO SAY.



THEY ALWAYS SAY "THIRD TIME'S THE CHARM."

EACH TIME I'VE DIED, I'VE BEEN CATAPULTED FROM ONE WORLD TO ANOTHER.



MAYBE THE THIRD ONE WILL BE THE ONE THAT BRINGS ME BACK HOME.

OR MAYBE THIS TIME I'LL JUST DIE.



RIGHT NOW IT'S A COIN FLIP AS TO WHICH ONE WOULD BE PREFERAB--

EH? THE DISCIPLE STIRS?

I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD FOR SURE.



X-FACTOR WITNESSES

WRITE TO US AT
OFFICEX@MARVEL.COM
AND MARK
"OK TO PRINT!"

Dear PAD & X-Factor Crew,

Wish I could say I've been reading the book when it first launched back in 2005. But after getting a few glimpses of the team in your "Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man" and "She-Hulk" runs I finally took a chance when the title went back to the original numbering a few years back and I've been hooked ever since. It's a rare thing to have an ongoing title that ties-in with Marvel continuity but at the same time remains completely accessible to new readers. Plus it doesn't hurt having at least one laugh out loud moment in every issue.

I'm sure you've heard this enough already, but I LOVE the way you inject humor into normally serious situations and of course the pop culture references. X-Factor's given me some of my favorite comic book moments, from Shatterstar singing in the rain to Pip trolling comic book writers on the Internet! Looking forward to the day when the team decides to go to a comic convention.

Another great thing about the series is watching the seeds you plant in stories pay off down the road in unexpected ways. Quick question, was the Imperial Studios where team confronted Bloodbath in the latest arc in any way connected to the abandoned Western movie set Darwin found himself in a while back? Speaking of Darwin, after being MIA for the last year gotta ask...WHERE IS HE!!? Please tell me you have plans for Darwin in the coming months, unless he's still upset about what happened to him in the X-Men: First Class movie. No spoilers for those who have yet to see it.

As always, keep up the great work, especially those hilarious recap pages!

Taimur Dar

Good question about the movie studio, Taimur. I hadn't intended for there to be a connection between the studios, but if you want to draw one, I won't dissuade you. As for Darwin, yes, he will be back in 2012. You haven't seen the last of him, or Rahne's son.

Dear PAD and X-Factor:

I want you to know that you have given me possibly one of the best Christmas gifts of the last few years. Seriously, I have read every issue of the Madrox-led X-Factor and I'm never disappointed. There are two things that I have been waiting for in your books and one has been the Wedding Night scene depicted way-back-when and second was the return of Damian Tryp. I knew that I was at the very least getting an explanation for the Wedding Night but getting Tryp, too!! You have made me a very happy fanboy, Peter David.

Always a fan,
Jonathan Prince

PS: I really hope that was a zombie-Jamie he landed next to at the end.

Not a zombie, Jonathan. Considering Jamie's fractured nature, zombie Madrox creating Madrox dupes would be problematic. Sure, one would be shouting, "Brains!" but the others would be demanding, "Liver!" "Heart!" "Spleen!" It would just be a whole mess.

Mr. David:

I am so excited that letters pages seem to be making a comeback. I have been a mutant and X-Fan for a very long time. I don't always collect and read. I come and go, like I'm sure other fans do as well. Sometimes this decision is fueled by the economy. I recently started up again. I couldn't stay away too long and X-Factor is one of the titles I come back to again and again. Even though I have periods of not reading, coming back to X-Factor is always like coming back home. It feels like I'm continuing where I left off in a certain way and I think that's because of your writing and you knowing the characters so well after all these years. I don't think that can be said of all titles.

I don't even know what to say or ask. I'm just excited to be writing a letter. How about I go through a few of the characters, make comments, and ask questions I may have about each of them?

Rahne: Why does an Asgardian demi-god and a human mutant a demon make? Why not a human/mutant/Asgardian demi-god? I was surprised at Rahne's reaction to her child. After all she's been through and being a mutant, I would think she wouldn't want to repeat any of those cycles. I would think some maternal instinct would kick in and make her want to go get her child.

She's one of my favorites and has always seemed like the red-headed step-child of the X-Men. Maybe it's because she's such a powerhouse. She seems to be the most tortured soul (though fans of Angel, Wolverine, and others might disagree). And, like I remember another letter-writer stating, it would be nice to have her finally experience some joy and peace once and for all.

Layla Miller: What are her powers? Really and exactly? What about her power during House of M? Is this power totally gone or does she still have some version of it. BB kept calling her an "Acolyte?" As in Acolyte of Magneto?

Shatterstar: Okay, is he gay, bi, multi-amorous? What? I realize he's a synthetic being. Is this why he's more "open?"

Longshot: Fans have been wanting to know the connection between Longshot and Shatterstar for years. Will we finally get that in the pages of X-Factor? And soon? I think we've waited long enough. Just sayin'.

I'll leave it at that for now. I plan to write more and more letters and, hopefully, some of them will be printed.

Until Strong Guy starts wearing a soul patch, make mine Marvel!

Cheers,
Freddie Rodriguez

Well, Freddie, to try and address your individual concerns as briskly as I can: Rahne—one person's demi-god is another person's demon; Layla—we've seen her powers spelled out more in the past few issues than at any time in the past. I wouldn't get too hung up on HoM if I were you since she's very different from what she was; Shatterstar—I'd say he's omni-amorous, if there is such a word. The ancient Greeks were attracted to a person's soul, considering the gender to be of no relevance. Same thing here; Longshot—will we finally get it in the pages of X-Factor? With any luck. But not soon. Strong Guy—I've actually been considering giving him a little green soul patch, specifically because of the irony involved. Hope that answers your questions. And don't stay away from home again for so long; we all wonder where you are when we have our family reunions.

Mr. David,

As a reader who only just discovered, purchased and read your entire run (so far) of X-Factor within the span of six months, I wanted to offer my insight into what I enjoy most about your book -- Madrox. This is probably old praise for you, but what you have done with Madrox is truly remarkable, akin to what Morrison did to Cyclops. You took a somewhat boring, two-dimensional character and made him real and fascinating.

I thoroughly enjoyed the character study of Madrox in your earlier issues, but since the book has garnered a larger (and larger still) team there seems to be less time devoted to our hero; despite his ability to be everywhere at every time.

Please don't bury Madrox under our shiny new X-Factor people! Let's continue to explore his wonderful indecisiveness that I so completely identify with, and see what unexpected mayhem those disagreeable dupes might do next.

Best,
Justin

P.S. Thanks for keeping Monet around! I miss my Generation X kids.

Believe me, Justin, I have no intention of seeing Madrox benched. And neither does he.

PAD

NEXT ISSUE:
The conclusion of "They Keep Killing Madrox!" So... does that mean we STOP killing Madrox...or that we kill him once and for all?

